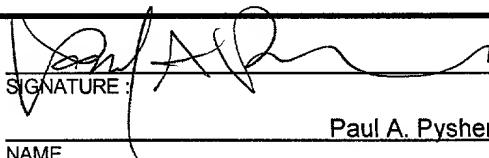


SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1390 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 12758-004001	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If Known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 09/763287	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP99/05632	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE August 3, 1999	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED August 28, 1998	
TITLE OF INVENTION RECEIVER AND METHOD OF RECOVERING DATA FROM RADIO SIGNALS			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Leo Rademacher			
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). <p>Items 11 to 16 below concern other documents or information included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> 			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p style="margin: 0;">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL</p> <p style="margin: 0;">I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.10 that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">Date of Deposit 2/20/01 Signature John Gray USA6Gray Typed Name of Person Signing</p> </div>			

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN) 09/763287	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP99/05632	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 12758-004001
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY
Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)- (5)):		
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1000		
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860		
International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO..... \$710		
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$690		
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$100		
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$860.00		
Surcharge of \$130 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). \$0.00		
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra
Total Claims	22 - 20 =	2
Independent Claims	2 - 3 =	x \$18
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS(S) (if applicable)		x \$80
		+ \$270
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$0.00		
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2. \$0.00		
SUBTOTAL = \$0.00		
Processing fee of \$130 for furnishing the English Translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)) \$0.00		
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$0.00		
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property + \$0.00		
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$896.00		
		Amount to be refunded: \$
		Charged: \$
<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$896.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 06-1050 in the amount of \$0.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1050. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p>		
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.		
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: AIAN D. SMITH		
FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. 225 Franklin Street Boston, MA 02110-2804 (617) 542-5070 phone (617) 542-8906 facsimile		
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Leo Rademacher Art Unit : TBD
Serial No. : TBD Examiner : TBD
PCT No. : PCT/EP99/05632
Filed : February 20, 2001
Title : RECEIVER AND METHOD OF RECOVERING DATA FROM RADIO SIGNALS

BOX PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 5, please change "any preceding claim" to -- claim 1 --.
Claim 6, please change "any preceding claim" to -- claim 1 --.
Claim 7, please change "any preceding claim" to -- claim 1 --.
Claim 8, please change "any preceding claim" to -- claim 1 --.
Claim 17, please change "any of claims 12 to 16" to -- claim 12 --.
Claim 18, please change "any of claims 9 to 17" to -- claim 9 --.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.10 that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

February 20, 2001

Date of Deposit

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Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

Applicant : Leo Rademacher.
Serial No. : TBD
Filed : February 20, 2001
Page : 2

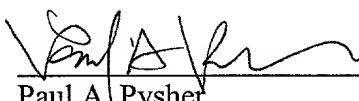
Attorney's Docket No.:
12758/004001/1998P02423WOUS

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being made to make the dependencies of the claims conform to proper US format. Consideration and examination of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 20, 2001



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Description of Invention:

Receiver and method of recovering data from radio signals

- 5 The present invention relates to receivers which operate to recover data for at least one of a plurality of users from contemporaneously detected like modulated radio signals. Furthermore the present invention relates to a method of recovering data for at least one of the plurality of users from contemporaneously detected like modulated radio signals.
- 10 More specifically the present invention relates to radio receivers for recovering data from radio signals modulated in accordance with code division multiple access.
- 15 Data is communicated using code division multiple access systems by combining the data with a user specific spreading code and conveying the combination using radio signals which are transmitted between a transmitter and a receiver. At the receiver, the data is recovered from the radio signals by comparing the received radio signals with the user specific spreading code which is known to the receiver. In this way, a plurality of transmitters associated with a corresponding plurality of users may be arranged to contemporaneously communicate data from the transmitters to receivers which
- 20 detect the data by comparing the radio signals with the unique user specific spreading code associated with each of the users.
- 25

A result of combining the data with a user specific spreading code, is that a bandwidth of the resulting radio signals is greater than that which would be the case if the data were carried alone by the radio signals. As a result, the frequency bandwidth occupied by code division multiple access signals is greater than a coherence bandwidth of the radio communications channel through which the signals pass. As a result code division multiple access signals are provided with an advantageous effect in that the signals themselves

exhibit frequency diversity in that parts of the signals are communicated in frequencies which suffer fading independently.

5 Code division multiple access is used in both second and is now being proposed for third generation mobile radio telephone systems. A characteristic of a frequency bandwidth in which radio signals are transmitted in second and third generation mobile radio telephone systems, is that the radio
10 signals arrive at receivers of the system via multiple paths. As a result, the received signals exhibit inter symbol interference which must be cancelled in order for the data to be recovered. A further advantage of code division multiple access, is that the increased bandwidth of the radio signals
15 allows for each of the paths via which the radio signals reach the receiver to be individually determined and the radio signal energy for each of the paths to be recovered and combined to facilitate detection of the communicated data. A receiver which operates to effect the detection of individual
20 paths via which radio signals reach the receiver is known to those skilled in the art as the rake receiver.

One known rake receiver which operates to combine conventional rake reception techniques with multi-user
25 detection is described in a published article entitled 'A multi-user receiver for code division multiple access communications over multipath channels', by U. Fawer and B. Aazhang published in IEEE Transactions on Communications, Vol. 43, No. 2/3/4, February/March/April 1995 at pages 1556 -
30 1565. This known receiver is provided with a plurality of data detectors known as rake fingers which together form a rake receiver. Each of the fingers of the rake receiver are assigned to one of the plurality of users and one of a plurality of temporal displacements corresponding to one of a
35 plurality of paths via which the radio signals reach the receiver. Furthermore the disclosed receiver is provided with a multi-user data detector which is fed with symbols detected

by each of the rake fingers and serves to effect an iterative process from which data from each of the individual users is recovered by treating the detected symbols as either wanted data which is therefore recovered by the iterative process or 5 interfering symbols which are arranged to be cancelled from the wanted data.

Rake receivers for code division multiple access radio signals suffer from multiple access interference, which is 10 generated from other unwanted radio signals and may be described for the detection of each symbol individually by a cross-correlation between radio signals for different users during one symbol period before a symbol estimate is generated by each of the rake fingers. Furthermore 15 interference is also caused in each of the rake fingers from radio signals reaching the receiver via other paths from the same user which have different temporal displacements which do not correspond with the temporal positions at which each rake finger is recovering the data from the radio signals. As 20 such, self inter symbol interference is caused which may be described for the detection of each symbol individually by the auto-correlation of the radio signals for a specific user with a time shift equal to the difference in the temporal displacement between that operated by the rake finger and 25 other interfering paths during one symbol period before the rake finger recovers an estimate of the symbol.

In EP 0 491 668 A and WO 95/22209 CDMA demodulators are described which decode the received composite signal in the 30 order of strongest to weakest signal strength. The number of decoder elements or data detectors is the same for every user spreading code.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an 35 improved rake receiver which is arranged to substantially

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reduce the effects of self inter symbol interference and multiple access interference, to improve a probability of correctly estimating the data symbols.

- 5 The invention resides generally in a rake receiver having a plurality of data detectors each of which is arranged to recover data symbols from radio signals at a particular temporal displacement and for a particular user specific code

and by dynamically assigning the data detectors between a plurality of temporal displacements and user specific codes independence upon a relative signal strength of the radio signals associated with each of the users.

5

According to the present invention there is provided a receiver for recovering data for at least one of a plurality of users from contemporaneously detected like modulated radio signals generated by the users from user data in combination with a plurality of user specific codes, the receiver comprising a plurality of data detector means each of which is operatively associated with one of the plurality of the user specific codes and one of a plurality temporal displacements with respect to an impulse response of a communications channel through which the radio signals have passed, each of the data detector means operating to estimate symbols of the data for one of the users from the received radio signals in combination with the user specific spreading code and the temporal displacement, a signal strength estimation means which operates to determine a relative strength of the received radio signals from which each of the user data symbols was estimated by the data detectors, and a receiver controller which operates to assign the user codes and the temporal displacements to each of the data detectors, wherein the receiver controller operates to re-assign the plurality of spreading codes and the temporal displacements to the data detectors consequent upon the relative strength of the radio signals, thereby facilitating recovery of data symbols for the at least one user.

30

Known rake receivers are arranged to the effect that a plurality of the data detectors are distributed equally amongst a plurality of users so that an equal number of data detectors are provided to each user. The data detectors assigned to each user are arranged to generate an estimate of a transmitted symbol from radio signals received at a particular temporal displacement. As a result of the fact

that radio signals from some users will be received with a substantially higher signal strength than radio signals received from other users, data symbols transmitted by users with strong signals will be more easily detected than symbols from users with relatively weaker radio signals. This situation is known to those skilled in the art as the 'near/far' problem. As such, users with weaker radio signals suffer most from multiple access interference and self inter symbol interference. However by determining the relative strengths of the received radio signals after a first estimate of the data symbols represented by the radio signals and subsequently reassigning the plurality of data detectors to the effect that users with weaker radio signals are arranged to be provided with a greater number of the data detectors, the radio receiver is arranged to provide an improvement in the probability of correctly estimating the data symbols from all users. The symbols estimated from users having stronger radio signals are in any case not disadvantaged by this reassignment since users with stronger signals do not suffer as greatly from inter symbol interference or multiple access interference from the weaker radio signals.

Advantageously the signal strength estimator means further operates to estimate the strength of components of the radio signals received at different temporal displacements, and the receiver controller further operates to reassign the plurality of data detectors in accordance with the relative strength of the signals.

Advantageously the radio receiver may further comprise a signal regenerator means coupled to the data detector means and arranged to regenerate received radio signals associated with at least one of the users by combining the estimated user data symbols with one of the plurality of user specific codes in dependence upon one of the temporal displacements.

The data detectors may further include means for subtracting the regenerated signals fed thereto from the received signals prior to the estimation of the user data symbols from a result of the subtraction.

5

By regenerating an estimate of the radio signals from particular users, and subtracting these radio signals from the received radio signals, the effect of stronger interfering signals may be cancelled from the radio signals from which data symbols from users with weaker radio signals may be subsequently estimated. As such, the assignment of the data detectors to the effect of generating an estimate of data symbols from users with relatively stronger signals is arranged to the effect that more of the data detectors are assigned to users with stronger radio signals. During a first iteration of the detection process, the data symbols from the stronger users are estimated and subsequently regenerated and subtracted from the received radio signals. Thereafter the plurality of data detectors are assigned to the weaker radio signals and the data symbols from these weaker users estimated from the result of subtracting the regenerated signals from the received radio signals. As such a different assignment strategy is exercised when the data detector includes a regenerator for subtracting the effect of users with stronger radio signals from the received signals.

The radio receiver may include a combiner means which operates to combine each of the estimates of the data symbols associated with a user to generate a composite data symbol decision. The combiner means may be a joint detector means which operates to cancel contemporaneously detected data symbols from the composite symbol decision to recover the data associated with one user.

35 The data detector means may be a rake finger and the users specific codes may be spreading codes the radio signals from

the plurality of users being generated in accordance with code division multiple access.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there
5 is provided a method of recovering data for at least one of a plurality of users from contemporaneously detected like modulated radio signals generated from user data and a plurality of user specific codes, the method comprising the steps of processing the radio signals with a plurality of
10 data detector means so as to estimate data symbols associated with a plurality of the users at a plurality of temporal displacements with respect to an impulse response of a communications channel through which the received signals have passed, determining a relative strength of the radio signals from which each of the user data symbols were
15 estimated and re-assigning the user specific codes and temporal displacements to the plurality of data detectors for at least one of the users in dependence upon the relative signal strengths of the radio signals.

20 One embodiment of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein;

25 FIGURE 1 is a schematic block diagram of a mobile radio telecommunication system;

FIGURE 2 is a schematic illustration of the propagation of
30 radio signals from the mobile stations shown in Figure 1 to one of the base stations shown in Figure 1;

35 FIGURE 3 is a schematic block diagram of a receiver embodied in one of the base stations shown in Figures 1 and 2;

FIGURE 4 is a schematic block diagram of a further receiver embodied within one of the base stations shown in Figures 1 and 2; and

- 5 FIGURE 5 is a schematic block diagram of a rake finger.

The example embodiment of the present invention will be illustrated with reference to a mobile radio telecommunications system, and in particular to a mobile radio communications system which operates in accordance with code division multiple access (CDMA). CDMA has been selected by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) as the radio access technique for a third generation mobile telecommunication system known as the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS). For a paired band, in frequency division duplex mode, the ETSI UMTS standard is arranged to operate in accordance with a wide band CDMA technique and in an unpaired band, in time division duplex mode, the radio access technique is a Time Division/CDMA multiple access technique. The present invention finds application with both W-CDMA and TD/CDMA technique.

An illustrative example of a mobile radio telecommunication system is illustrated in Figure 1. In Figure 1 a plurality of mobile stations MS, are shown to communicate using radio signals 1, transmitted between the mobile stations MS and a plurality of base stations BS. The base stations BS are disposed in a spaced part relationship so as provide a radio coverage area which may be conceived to be made up from a number of cells 2. A cell 2 is defined as a geographical area within which radio communications may be effected with a base station BS as supposed to any of the other base stations BS in a mobile radio network. In Figure 1 the cells 2, formed for each of the three base stations BS illustrated are defined by the broken line 4. The mobile stations MS communicate data with each of the base stations BS using radio signals 1.

Data is communicated between the base station BS and mobile stations MS by combining the data with a user specific spreading code and then modulating the result onto a radio frequency carrier. A characteristic of CDMA radio access is that mobile stations MS are arranged to communicate radio signals contemporaneously to the base stations BS which operate to recover data symbols communicated by the mobile stations by de-spreading the received radio signals with a user specific spreading code. At the receivers in the respective base and mobile stations, the received radio signals are de-spread, by correlating the radio signals with respect to the user specific spreading sequence to the effect that the data symbols communicated are recovered in spite of the presence of contemporaneously detected CDMA signals from other mobile stations. Each of the mobile stations MS may be considered to be a user of the system, and as such, the term 'user' will be used in the following description to identify signals or data to be communicated from a particular source to a particular sink.

An illustration of the communication of CDMA signals between the mobile stations MS and one of the base stations BS shown in Figure 1 is illustrated in Figure 2 where parts also appearing in Figure 1 bear identical numerical designations. In Figure 2 a plurality of mobile stations are shown to communicate radio signals contemporaneously with the base station BS. A characteristic of the transmission of radio signals within a bandwidth which has been assigned to mobile radio communication systems is that the radio signals reach the receive antenna via a plurality of paths. This is illustrated in Figure 2 by the lines 8, 10, which reach a receive antenna 6 of the base station BS via a direct path 8, and at least one additional path 10, which is reflected via an object such as a building 12. As a result of the multi-path propagation of the radio signals, the data communicated by the radio signals will exhibit inter symbol interference

in a case where a temporal difference in the time taken for the radio signals to reach the receive antenna 6, via at least two paths is greater than a symbol period. As such mobile radio communication systems must be provided with 5 means to mitigate the effect of inter symbol interference.

As illustrated in Figure 2 the base station BS detects the received radio signals via the receive antenna 6 and communicates the detected radio signals to a front-end receiver 14. The front-end receiver 14 operates to down-convert and analogue to digital convert the received radio signals and feed the base band digital samples to a data detector 16 via a conductor 18. The data detector 16, operates to recover and separate the data symbols communicated by the radio signals transmitted by each of the mobile stations contemporaneously and pass the separated detected user data symbols to the mobile radio network for further processing via conductors 20.

An illustrative embodiment of the data recovery means 16 shown in Figure 2 is illustrated in Figure 3, where parts also appearing in Figure 2 bear identical numerical designations. The data recovery means 16 is shown to be comprised of a data store 22 to which the received sampled base band signals are fed via conductor 18. An output of the data store 22, is fed to each of a plurality of data detectors 24. The outputs of each of the data detectors 24, are fed to a signal strength estimator means 26, and further to a data combiner means 28. The output of the data combiner means 28, is presented on a plurality of conductors 20, and corresponds to the recovered data symbols associated with each of the users. Coupled to the signal strength estimator means 26, and the combiner means 28, is a receiver controller 30. The operation of the data recovery means 16 will now be 20 described with reference to CDMA signals.

The received digital samples representative of the detected radio signals are first fed from conductor 18, to the data store 22. These received signal samples correspond to a burst of radio signals of predetermined duration and having a 5 predetermined number of user data symbols. In the following description it is assumed that the receiver has already been provided with means for synchronisation with this predetermined burst of radio signals. The received signal samples are fed to each of the data detectors 24, which in 10 the case of CDMA signals are representative of fingers of a rake receiver. Thus, each of the data detectors 24, is a rake finger and together the data detectors 24, form a rake receiver. Assigned to each of the rake fingers 24, is a user specific spreading sequence and one of a plurality of 15 temporal displacements with respect to an impulse response of a communications channel through which the radio signals have passed.

As is familiar to those skilled in the art, a rake receiver 20 comprises a number of rake fingers, each of which is arranged to correlate the received radio signals against the user specific spreading sequence and to sum the result of the correlation in order determine an estimate of the transmitted data symbol. Furthermore, each of the fingers of the rake is 25 temporarily positioned to the effect of cross-correlating the user specific spreading code at a particular relative temporal position within a channel impulse response which describes the radio communications channel through which the received signals have passed. Thus, in the case of the 30 present example where the radio signals have reached the receive antenna via a plurality of paths, an optimum rake receiver will arrange for the fingers of the rake to correlate at temporal positions corresponding to the respective delays experienced by the radio signals at each of 35 the plurality of paths.

At a first iteration, the plurality of rake fingers are equally assigned to the corresponding numbers of users, to the effect that each user is assigned in the present example three rake fingers. Each of these fingers is temporarily positioned to the effect of recovering energy of the received radio signals at a particular temporal displacement matched to the impulse response of the channel through which the received signals have passed. The rake fingers thereafter generate an estimate of the user data symbols at the output which is fed to the signal strength estimator means 26. The signal strength estimator means 26 serves to provide a measure indicative of the relative strength or confidence in the estimated data symbol for each of the estimated data symbols determined by the corresponding rake fingers. The estimated data symbols and the estimate of the signal strength are thereafter fed to the combiner means 28, which serves to combine each of the estimated data symbols associated with each of the users so that for each user a composite data symbol is generated and output on the conductors 20. However under control of the receiver controller 30 users which are found to have a relatively weak signal strength by the signal strength estimator means 26, may be further estimated by adapting the assignment of the rake fingers 24, to the effect that the users with relatively weak radio signals are assigned more of the rake fingers 24, than users having relatively strong signals. Thus for users which have already been determined to have a relatively strong signal strength the already detected data symbol for these users may be output on the conductors 20. However, for the relatively weak radio signals the receiver controller 30 operates to once again feed the stored burst or radio signals from the data store 22, to the rake fingers 24, and to correspondingly reassign the rake fingers to the effect that more of the rake fingers 24, are arranged to correlate the received radio signal against the user specific sequence corresponding to users with relatively weak signal strengths. Furthermore, in correspondence with the channel impulse

response determined for the user with a relatively weak signal strength, the relative temporal positions of the rake fingers 24, are reassigned, so that the delays of the rake fingers correspond to the paths by which the radio signal from the weak user reached the receiver. As such, the rake fingers are distributed in accordance with the channel impulse response experienced by the radio signals for this user with the effect that each of the rake fingers is assigned to a temporal position corresponding to a relatively significant component of the channel impulse response. With this further iteration the combiner means 28, receives from each of the rake fingers assigned to a particular user an estimate of the data symbol of that user which is therefore combined by the combiner means 28 to form the composite user data symbol which is output on a corresponding one of the conductors 20.

An example of a receiver which would operate in accordance with the data recovery means 16 as described, is provided in the aforementioned published article in the IEEE Transactions on Communications, Vol. 43, No. 2/3/4, February/March/April 1995 at page 1556 by U. Fawer et al. This known data recovery means is an illustration of an iterative data detector for recovering data from CDMA modulated signals in which fingers of the rake are assigned equally to each of the users, and for which corresponding estimates of data symbols are generated. Further iterations of the process are effected in accordance with the signal strength of the received signals to the effect that the data symbols for each user are estimated by cancelling from the received radio signals the effect of the radio signals from the other users. Thus, in the present example embodiment the signal strength estimator 26, and combiner means 28, could be formed by a single processor under control of the receiver controller 30.

A further example embodiment of the present invention is provided in Figure 4 where parts also appearing in Figures 2

- and 3 bear identical numerical designations. In Figure 4 a data recovery means 16 corresponds generally to the data recovery means shown in Figure 3. However the data recovery means 16 shown in Figure 4 is further arranged to feed back symbol decisions determined from first iterations of the detection process and to regenerate the effect of the radio signals in accordance with the estimated data, and to subtract the effect of these regenerated signals from the received signals in subsequent iterations of the detection process. In Figure 4 the burst of received radio signals is again fed from the data store 22, to each of the rake fingers designated 24'. Also fed to the input of the rake fingers 24' are regenerated signals fed from a modulator 32 under control of the receiver controller 30. Estimates of the data symbols for each user as formed from the composite signal decisions made by the combining means 28, and are fed via the conductors 20, to the receiver controller 30 by conductors 34. The operation of the data recovery means 16 shown in Figure 4 is substantially in accordance with that shown in Figure 3. However the signal strength estimator means 26 on a first calculation of the estimated data symbols is used to identify the relative strength of the radio signals associated with each user as for the case with the data recovery means 16 shown in Figure 3. However for the data recovery means 16 shown in Figure 4, users with relatively strong radio signals are arranged to be assigned a greater share of the rake fingers 24' to the effect that the data symbol estimates associated with the relatively strong users are estimated and formed by the combiner means 28 and fed to the modulator 32 via the receiver controller 30. Thereafter the modulator means 32 operates to regenerate the radio signals formed by these users which are therefore fed back to the rake fingers 24'.
- An illustrative example of such a rake finger 24' is shown in Figure 5 where parts also appearing in Figures 4 bear identical numerical designations. In Figure 5 the regenerated

radio signals are fed via a conductor 36 to a signal subtractor means 38. Also fed from the receiver controller 30, on a conductor 40, is a control signal fed to a data store 42. The control signal fed on conductor 40, serves to 5 select which of the user specific sequences stored in a data store 42, is fed to a correlating filter means 44. In operation therefore in a subsequent iteration of the detection process, regenerated signals fed on conductor 36 are subtracted from the radio signals stored in data store 22 10 as they are fed to the rake fingers 24' by the subtraction means 38. The correlating filter 44 thereafter operates to correlate the subtracted received radio signals against the user specific sequence fed from the data store 42, and to form a symbol decision at the output of the matched filter means 46, representative of an estimate of the communicated data symbol associated with this user. The estimates of the data symbols are thereafter fed from the rake fingers 24' to the combiner means 28 via the signal strength estimator 26. The combiner means then operates to form a composite symbol 15 decision presented on the output conductors 20. Thus, unlike the data recovery means 16 shown in Figure 3 the effect of providing the modulator 32 under control of the receiver controller 30 and means for subtracting regenerated signals from the received signals serves to change the detection 20 process of the data symbols from each user. For the data recovery means 16 shown in Figure 4, in a first iteration, users with relatively strong signals are assigned more of the rake fingers 24' to the effect that a strong estimate of the data symbols for these users is generated which is thereafter 25 used to regenerate the radio signals corresponding to these estimated data symbols. On a subsequent iteration the rake fingers 24' are assigned to the next weakest users and the effect of the already detected user data symbols is subtracted from the received signals to the effect that the 30 rake fingers assigned to the next weakest user signals and distributed amongst the most significant signal components serve to provide a better estimate of the data symbols of the 35

next weakest users. Thereafter, further iterations of the detection process are introduced with the data symbols from the users already detected being used to form the regenerated radio signals which are subtracted from the radio signals stored in the data store 22 to the effect that the weaker users may be detected using the rake fingers reassigned to them for the subsequent iteration. After all data symbols from all users have been estimated, a further burst of radio signals is fed to the data store 22 and the detection process is reiterated.

As an illustration, the following simple assignment strategy is provided for a total number of fifty available rake fingers for use in detecting data symbols from ten users. For each user the relative signal strength is determined by the signals strength estimation means 26, after the correlating filter effected by the rake fingers 24', for all of the temporal displacements determined from the channel impulse response corresponding to each user. The fifty strongest paths are then selected from the total of all users. The rake fingers are thereafter assigned in accordance with a relative strength of the detected data symbols and this assignment changes from iteration to iteration. Initially users with weak signals are not assigned rake fingers, since there is a possibility that detection of this data before interference cancellation may result in a very low probability of estimating the symbol correctly. For the final few iterations of the detection process, users with weak signals are then assigned a greater number of the rake fingers so as to provide a greater likelihood of detection.

A more advanced strategy, based on the total received wanted carrier signal power to interference power ratio is also possible. For this purpose the interference effect of admitting a specific path must be estimated, including the effect of the correlation factors.

As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art various modifications may be made to the embodiments herein before described without departing from the scope of the present invention. For example, the receiver may be used to detect

- 5 TD/CDMA signals as well as other forms of CDMA radio access signals. In this case the rake fingers 24, 24', will be replaced by other forms of a data detector such as those disclosed in our co-pending UK patent application No. 9 810 987.9.

Claims:

1. A receiver for recovering data for at least one of a plurality of users from contemporaneously detected like modulated radio signals generated by said users from user data in combination with a plurality of user specific codes, said receiver comprising
- a plurality of data detector means (24, 24') each of which is operatively associated with one of the plurality of the user specific codes and one of a plurality temporal displacements with respect to an impulse response of a communications channel through which the radio signals have passed, each of said data detector means (24, 24') operating to estimate symbols of said data for one of said users from said received radio signals in combination with said user specific spreading code and said temporal displacement,
 - a signal strength estimation means (26) which operates to determine a relative strength of the received radio signals from which each of said user data symbols was estimated by said data detectors, and
 - a receiver controller (30) which operates to assign said user codes and said temporal displacements to each of said data detectors (24, 24'), wherein said receiver controller (30) operates to re-assign said plurality of spreading codes and said temporal displacements to said data detectors (24, 24') consequent upon said relative strength of said radio signals, thereby facilitating recovery of data symbols for said at least one user.
- characterised in
- 30 said receiver controller (30) operates to assign said user specific codes to said plurality of data detectors (24, 24') to the effect that a different number of said data detectors (24, 24') are assigned the same user specific spreading code and different temporal displacements for a user having a relatively weak signal strength than for a user having a relatively strong signal strength.

2. A receiver as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said receiver controller (30) operates to assign said user specific codes to said plurality of data detectors (24, 24') to the effect that more of said data detectors (24, 24') are assigned the same user specific spreading code and different temporal displacements for a user having a relatively weak signal strength than for a user having a relatively strong signal strength.
- 10 3. A receiver as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said receiver controller (30) operates to assign said user specific codes to said plurality of data detectors (24, 24') to the effect that more of said data detectors (24, 24') are assigned the same user specific spreading code and different temporal displacements for a user having a relatively strong signal strength than for a user having a relatively weak signal strength.
- 15 4. A receiver as claimed in Claim 1, and further comprising a signal re-generator means (32) coupled to said data detector means (24, 24') which operates to re-generate said received signals associated with at least one user, by combining said estimated user data symbols with said one of said plurality of user specific codes in dependence upon one of said temporal displacements, wherein said data detectors (24, 24') further include means (38) for subtracting said regenerated signals from said received signals, prior to estimation of said user data symbols.
- 20 5. A receiver as claimed in any preceding claim and further including a combiner means (28) coupled to said plurality of data detector means (24, 24') and arranged to combine said estimated symbols associated with the same user to form composite symbol decisions to recover the data for the user.
- 25 30 6. A receiver as claimed in any preceding claim, and further including

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- a data store (22) which serves to store said radio signals received within a pre-determined time window, which stored radio signals are iteratively fed to said data detectors (24, 24') under control of said receiver controller (30).

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7. A receiver as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the data detector means are rake fingers (24, 24'), the user specific codes being spreading codes, the radio signals from the plurality of users being generated in accordance with code division multiple access.

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8. A receiver as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said signal strength estimator means (26) further operates to estimate the strength of components of said radio signals received at said temporal displacements, and said receiver controller (30) further operates to re-assign said plurality of data detectors in accordance with said relative strength of said signal components.

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9. A method of recovering data for at least one of a plurality of users from contemporaneously detected like modulated radio signals generated from user data and a plurality of user specific codes, said method comprising the steps of;

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- processing said radio signals with a plurality of data detector means so as to estimate data symbols associated with a plurality of said users at a plurality of temporal displacements with respect to an impulse response of a communications channel through which said received signals have passed;

- determining a relative strength of the radio signals from which each of said user data symbols were estimated; and

- re-assigning user specific codes and temporal displacements to said plurality of data detectors for at least one of said users in dependence upon the relative signal strengths of said radio signals

characterised in

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that the re-assignment is carried out in such a way that a user with signals having a relatively weak signal strength is assigned a different number of said detectors than a user with signals having a relatively strong signal strength.

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10. A method as claimed in Claim 9, characterised in assigning more detectors to an user with signals having a relatively weak signal strength than a user with signals having a relatively strong signal strength.

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11. A method as claimed in Claim 9, characterised in assigning more detectors to an user with signals having a relatively strong signal strength than a user with signals having a relatively weak signal strength.

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12. A method as claimed in any of Claims 9 to 11, and further including the steps of;

- storing said radio signals received within a pre-determined temporal window; and

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- re-estimating said user data symbols for said re-assigned codes and temporal displacements from said stored radio signals, thereby providing an improved estimate of said user data symbols.

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13. A method as claimed in Claim 12, and further including the step of

- further re-assigning said user specific codes and said temporal displacements in dependence upon said relative signals strengths and further re-estimating said user data

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symbols from said stored received radio signals, further detecting said user data symbols.

14. A method as claimed in any of Claims 9 to 11, and further including the step of;

35 - storing said radio signals received within a pre-determined temporal window;

- re-generating some of said radio signals from said estimated user data symbols and said user specific spreading codes for at least one temporal displacement;
 - subtracting said re-generated radio signals from said stored radio signals;
 - for user data symbols not so far detected, re-assigning to said data detectors the user specific codes of said not so far detected users and a plurality of said temporal displacements; and
- 10 - estimating said not so far detected user data symbols using said data detectors.

15. A method as claimed in Claim 14, and further including the steps of;
- 15 - repeating the steps of regenerating radio signals for said detected user data symbols and subtracting the regenerated radio signals from the stored radio signals;
 - further re-assigning to said data detectors the user specific codes of said not so far detected users and a plurality of said temporal displacements; and
 - further estimating said not so far detected user data symbols.

- 25 16. A method as claimed in Claim 15, and further including the step of
- repeating the steps of claim 15 until the data symbols from all users have been detected.

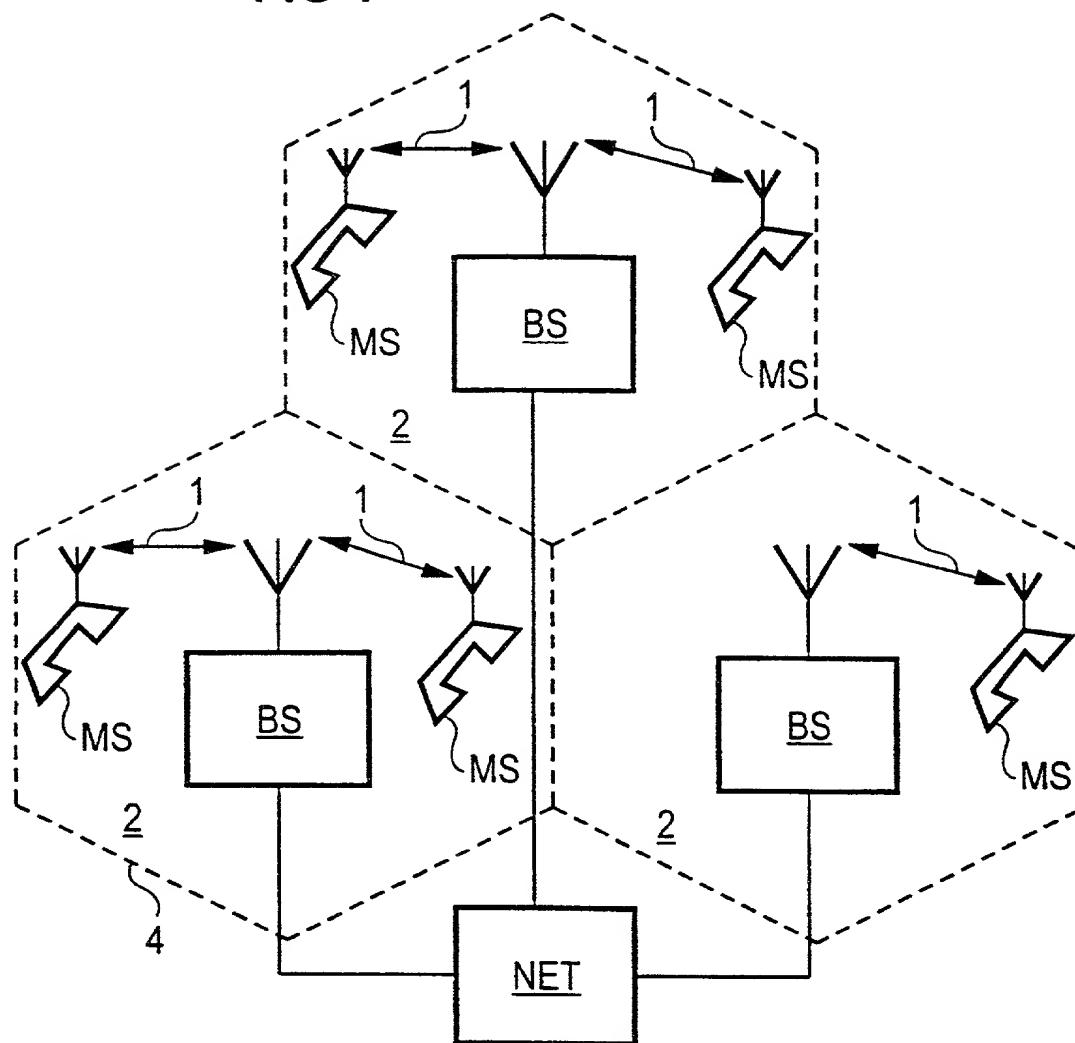
- 30 17. A method as claimed in any of claims 12 to 16, and further including the steps of
- determining the relative strengths of components of said received signals at each of said plurality of temporal displacements; and
 - assigning said temporal displacements to said plurality of data detectors in dependence upon the relative strength of said signal components.

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18. A method as claimed in any of claims 9 to 17, wherein said user specific codes are spreading codes, said radio signals being combined with said data in accordance with code division multiple access.

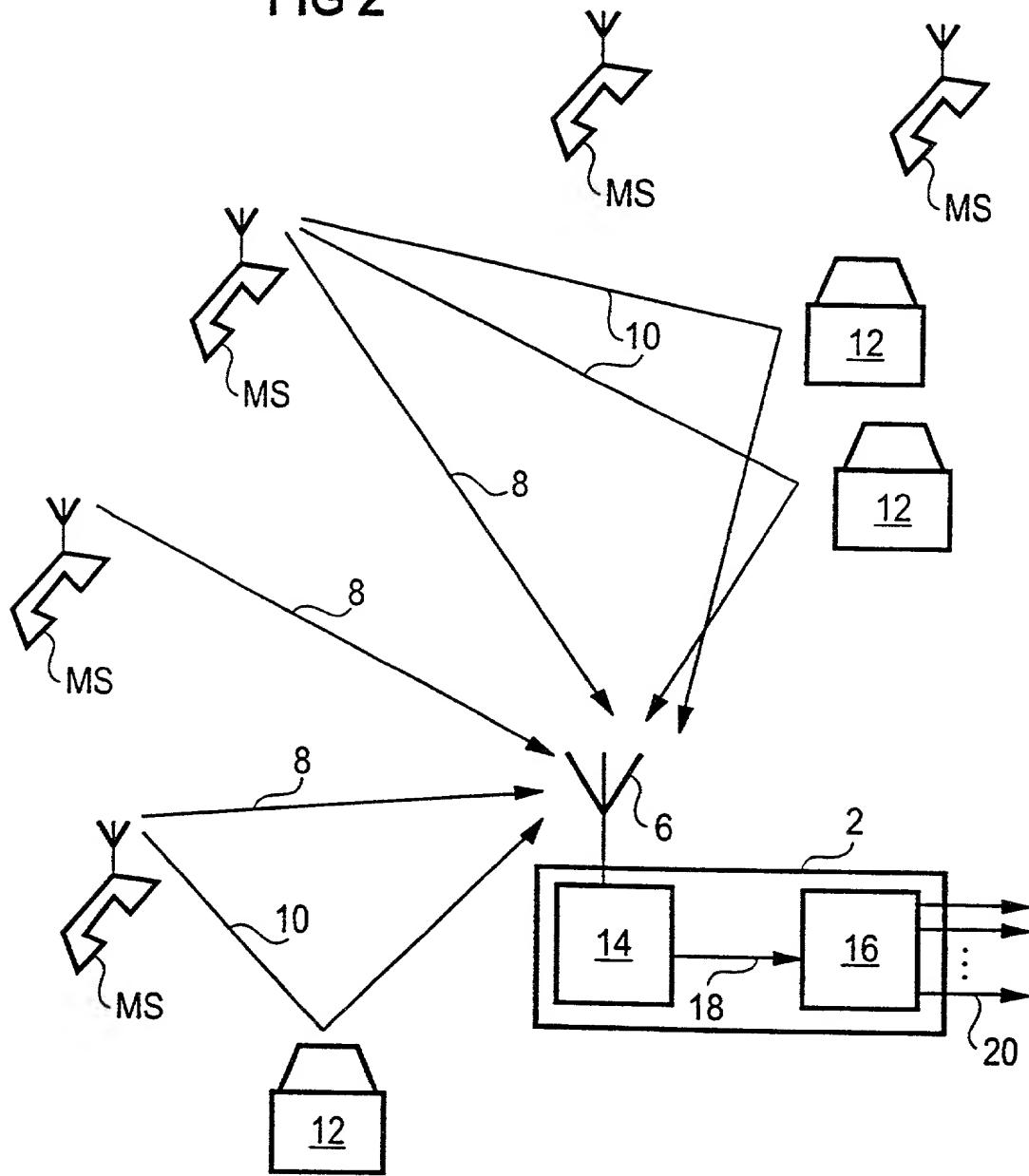
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FIG 1



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FIG 2



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FIG 3

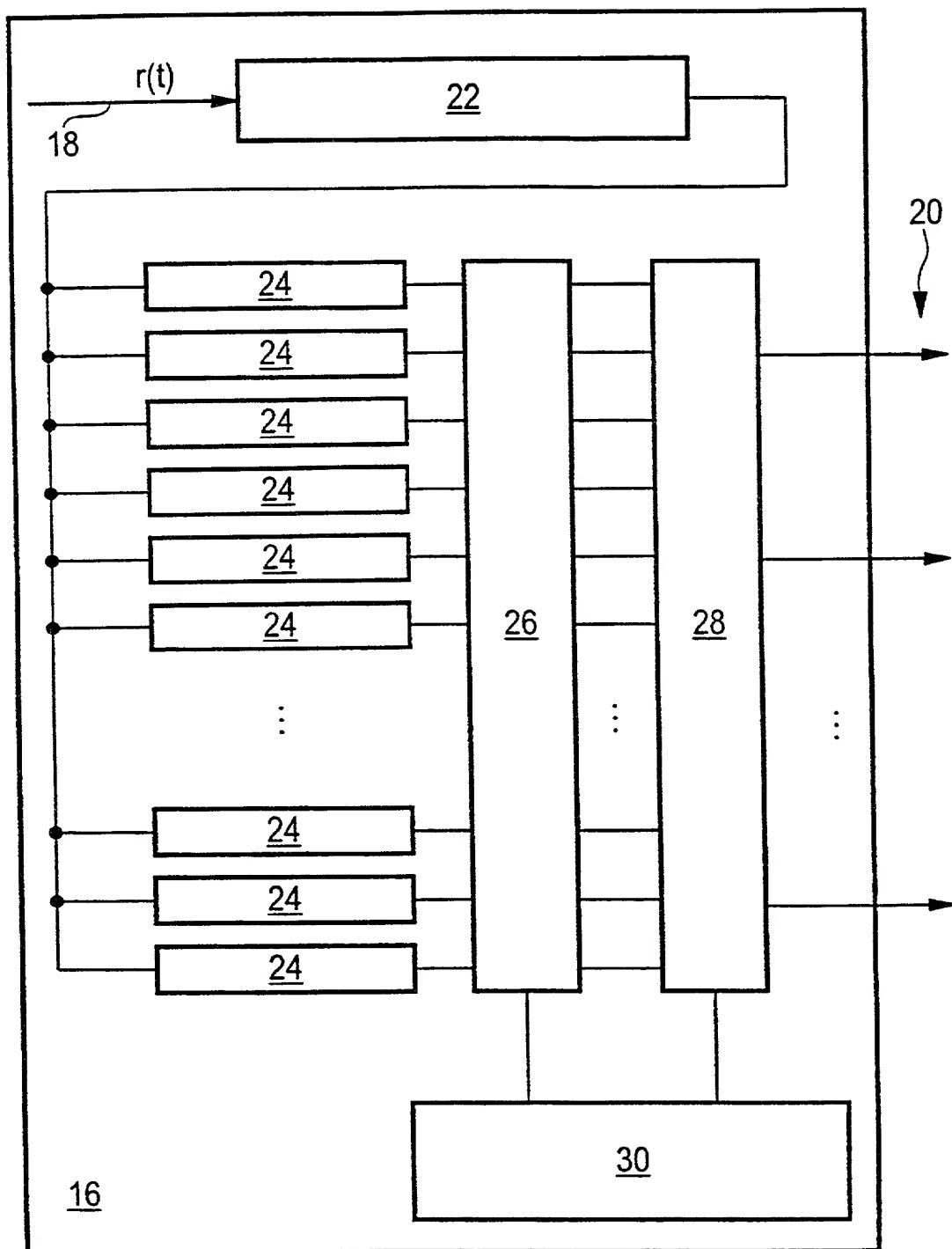
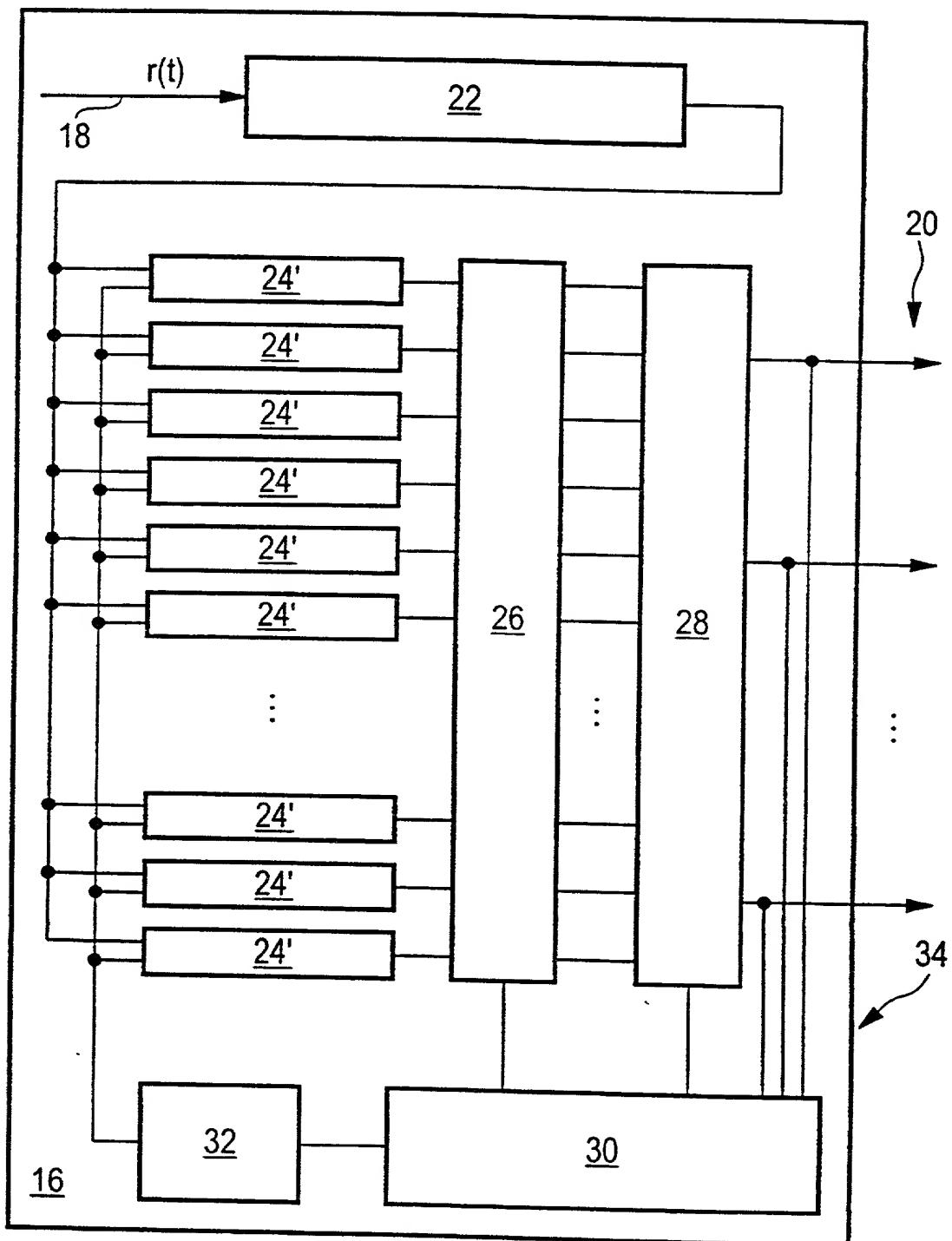
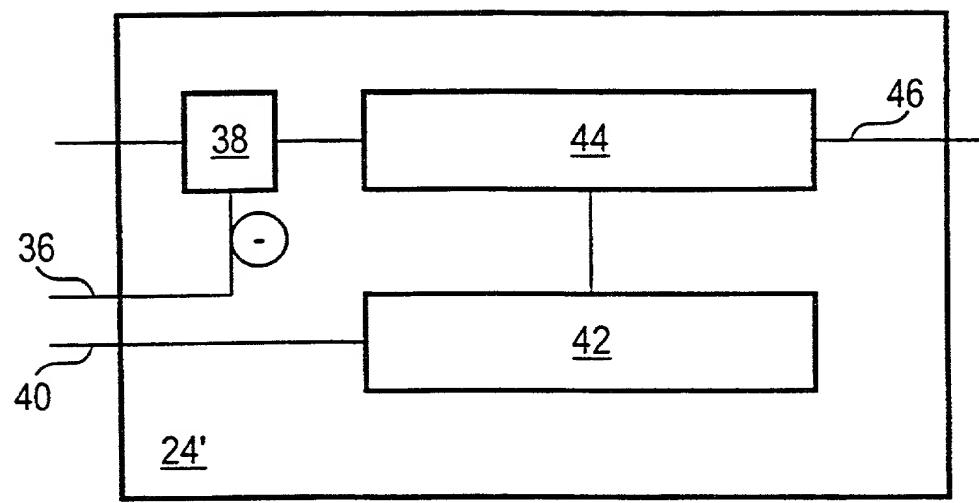


FIG 4



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FIG 5



Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application
Erklärung Für Patentanmeldungen Mit Vollmacht
 German Language Declaration

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder erkläre ich hiermit an Eides Statt:

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Receiver and method of recovering data from radio signals

deren Beschreibung

(zutreffendes ankreuzen)

hier beigelegt ist.

am 03.08.1999 als

PCT internationale Anmeldung

PCT Anmeldungsnr. PCT/EP99/05632

eingereicht wurde und am

abgeändert wurde (falls tatsächlich abgeändert).

Ich bestätige hiermit, dass ich den Inhalt der obigen Patentanmeldung einschliesslich der Ansprüche durchgesehen und verstanden habe, die eventuell durch einen Zusatzantrag wie oben erwähnt abgeändert wurde.

Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung irgendwelcher Informationen, die für die Prüfung der vorliegenden Anmeldung in Einklang mit Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1.56(a) von Wichtigkeit sind, an.

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As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Receiver and method of recovering data from radio signals

the specification of which

(check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on 03.08.1999 as

PCT international application

PCT Application No. PCT/EP99/05632

and was amended on

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

German Language Declaration

Prior foreign applications
Priorität beansprucht

Priority Claimed

<u>98116318.1</u>	<u>EP</u>	<u>28.08.1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Ja	<input type="checkbox"/> No Nein
(Number)	(Country)	(Day Month Year Filed) (Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)		
(Number)	(Country)	(Day Month Year Filed) (Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Ja	<input type="checkbox"/> No Nein
(Number)	(Country)	(Day Month Year Filed) (Tag Monat Jahr eingereicht)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Ja	<input type="checkbox"/> No Nein

Ich beanspruche hiermit gemäss Absatz 35 der Zivilprozeßordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 120, den Vorzug aller unten aufgeführten Anmeldungen und falls der Gegenstand aus jedem Anspruch dieser Anmeldung nicht in einer früheren amerikanischen Patentanmeldung laut dem ersten Paragraphen des Absatzes 35 der Zivilprozeßordnung der Vereinigten Staaten, Paragraph 122 offenbart ist, erkenne ich gemäss Absatz 37, Bundesgesetzbuch, Paragraph 1.56(a) meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung von Informationen an, die zwischen dem Anmelde datum der früheren Anmeldung und dem nationalen oder PCT internationalen Anmelde datum dieser Anmeldung bekannt geworden sind.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §122, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

<u>PCT/EP99/05632</u>	<u>03.08.1999</u>	
(Application Serial No.) (Anmeldeseriennummer)	(Filing Date D, M, Y) (Anmelde datum T, M, J)	(Status) (patentiert, anhängig, aufgegeben)
(Application Serial No.) (Anmeldeseriennummer)	(Filing Date D,M,Y) (Anmelde datum T, M; J)	(Status) (patentiert, anhängig, aufgegeben)
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

German Language Declaration

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POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (*list name and registration number*)

And I hereby appoint

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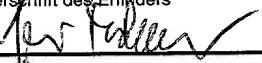
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Unterschrift des Erfinders	Datum	Second Inventor's signature Date
Wohnsitz ,	Residence ,	
Staatsangehörigkeit	Citizenship	
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(Bitte entsprechende Informationen und Unterschriften im Falle von dritten und weiteren Miterfindern angeben).

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors).